

of birds had greatly increased. A pair of Baldpates and a female Shoveller had appeared; there were now two pairs of Blue-winged Teals, and no less than forty Pintails, the males and females occurring in about equal numbers; the Coot was also noted.

On April 25 the number of Baldpates had increased to eight, and one small flock of eight Green-winged Teals was flushed near the railroad track. The two pairs of Blue-winged Teals and the female Shoveller were again found; twenty pairs of Pintails were noted, and the number of Coots had increased to three. On Sunday, May 5, a final visit was paid to the area, and twenty pairs of Pintails were noted; the remaining birds had evidently passed on.

Inasmuch as the birds were easily observable from the highway, many persons in this vicinity have commented both upon their numbers and their tameness. The Pintail appeared to be the most unsuspecting species, and the Green-winged Teal the most wary; the Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal and Shoveller were somewhat more difficult to observe than the Pintail, probably because they were usually feeding among the grasses. In no case, however, was it necessary to guard against the danger of exposing one's self in order to make an identification; apparently none of the Anatinae paid any attention to the observer, providing, of course, he did not get too near them. Most of the ducks, and especially the Pintails, seemed somewhat stupid, as though their excess vitality had been entirely used up by a series of hard flights or an exceptionally severe winter. Instead of their being continually on the alert for danger, they fed or rested leisurely, apparently quite oblivious of their somewhat unfavorable environment.

Although numbers of foreign laborers live near the region, no attempts were made to molest the birds, probably on account of the Lackawanna policemen who regularly patrol the outskirts of the area. It might be added that the Coots recorded here are the first the writer has ever seen at this season in this vicinity; they are included because of this fact and also because they were on the meadows with the Anatinae.—THOMAS L. BOURNE, *Hamburg, N. Y.*

**Spring Shore-birds in Connecticut.**—An unusually heavy flight of shore-birds appeared in Connecticut in the spring of 1918. Not only were the common spring species in unusually large numbers, but a number of species usually rare at this season appeared. The main part of the flight as I observed it at Norwalk was between May 25 and June 1. The following species, rare or unusual at this season, were recorded.

**Macrorhamphus griseus griseus.** DOWITCHER.—Four of these birds were observed clearly on May 25. They were seen from a distance of about 150 feet, in a very clear light, and with seven diameter binoculars. On May 27 more birds believed to be this species were seen, but on account of fog nothing but their outlines was visible. On May 28 several more

were again certainly seen. This species has not been previously recorded from Connecticut in spring.

**Tringa canutus.** KNOT.—Two birds of this species were seen May 25 in company with the Dowitchers seen on that date. They were observed clearly and were in the beautiful rosy-breasted and gray-backed spring plumage. This species has been recorded but once previously in spring from Connecticut (Gabrielson, Auk XXXIV, 462-3) and then from nearly the same locality as this record.

**Totanus flavipes.** YELLOWLEGS.—Two birds of this species were observed at Norwalk, May 11. They were in company with the larger species, so that comparisons in size were easily made to identify them. There are but two previous spring records from Connecticut.

**Squatarola squatarola.** BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—This species was first noted on May 18, and was abundant from May 25 to June 1. During that time a good many in apparently full adult plumage were noted.

**Arenaria interpres morinella.** RUDDY TURNSTONE.—This species was very abundant from May 25 until June 1, flocks numbering from a dozen to fifty or more being seen. In fact, this species, usually rare in spring, was equally abundant with such common species as the Least Sandpiper and Semipalmated Plover.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Norwalk, Conn.*

**Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) Nesting in West Haven, Conn.**—For the past two seasons word has been sent to me that Snipe were nesting on a certain farm near West Haven, but I did not pay any attention to it, as I at once thought they were Spotted Sandpipers.

About the middle of June of the past season a farmer said to me that there was a Snipe's nest in one of his corn fields, and that it contained four eggs. I at once questioned him in regard to the size of the birds and, he said they were as big as Robins, and that they had black collars on their necks.

On July 7 I paid a visit to the farm and as I was passing a pasture lot I heard the call of a Killdeer and looking over the lot I saw a pair of the birds.

When I reached the house the man took me into a corn field back of the barn, and, there in the center of the field was the nest with three eggs, one having been broken accidentally while cultivating. The nest was simply a depression in the ground with a few small pebbles on which the eggs lay. The old bird made her appearance and moved about the field, dragging her wing and feigning lameness.

The eggs at this date were heavily incubated so I took two exposures of the nest and left it hoping they would return in 1919 as the farmer said they had nested on his place for three years. A few days later I had an interview with the son of a farmer who had previously told me about Snipe nesting on his place, and, he said that they had nested there this